

**MINUTES**  
**VERNON TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING**  
**TOWN HALL - 14 PARK PLACE - 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**  
**VERNON, CONNECTICUT**

**March 31, 2016 7:00 PM**

Mayor Daniel A. Champagne called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

**A) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**B) ROLL CALL:**

**Present:** Council Members Pauline Schaefer, Michael Winkler, Brian Motola, Julie Clay, Kim Appleyard, Steve Wakefield, Laura Bush, Bill Campbell, and Jim Tedford.

**Absent:** Council Members Steve Peterson and Ann Letendre

**Entered During Meeting:** Virginia Gingras

**Also Present:** Mayor Daniel A. Champagne, Town Administrator John Ward, Recording Secretary Karen Daigle

**C) CITIZEN'S FORUM**

Joe Tarzi, 155 West Main Street, complimented the Public Works Department and their timely manner of repairing items around town. He also spoke of the Rockville Public Library, comparing its size to surrounding towns, its hours of operation, and budget funding.

7:02 PM Council Member Gingras entered meeting.

Citizen's Forum closed at 7:06 PM

**D.) PRESENTATION**

Mayor Daniel A. Champagne and James M. Luddecke, Finance Officer and Treasurer presented updates since the March 29, 2016 meeting. Mr. Luddecke spoke on the situation with the State of Connecticut, the Certificate of Corrections by the Assessor's Office, the Grand List and the proposed mil rate. Discussion took place.

**E.) MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNTS REQUIRING ACTION OR DISCUSSION**

1. Revenue
2. Opportunity for Town Council Members to add or delete from the Mayor's proposed budget.

**Recreation Public Celebration**

Council Member Winkler, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to open tab 9 page 136, account 10560253, motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Winkler, seconded by Council Member Schaefer moved to add \$1,200 to account 55910, Rockville Fest/National Night Out, line item, police protection. Discussion took place. Motion to add \$1,200 failed with 4 in favor and 6 opposed, Council Members Clay, Appleyard, Wakefield, Bush, Campbell, and Peterson.

Council Member Winkler, seconded by Council Member Schaefer moved to add \$250 to account 55910, Rockville Fest/National Night Out, line item, port-a-potties. Discussion took place. Motion failed with 5 in favor and 5 opposed; the mayor broke the tie with a no vote.

Council Member Winkler, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to close tab 9 page 136, account 10560253. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Law**

Council Member Appleyard, seconded by Council Member Campbell made a motion to open tab 5 page 9, account 10112121, motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Appleyard questioned line item 53140, other legal fees and services. Discussion took place.

Council Member Appleyard, seconded by Council Member Campbell made a motion to close tab 5 page 9, account 10112121, motion carried unanimously.

#### **Town Clerk**

Council Member Appleyard, seconded by Council Member Campbell made a motion to open tab 5 page 34, account 10115150, motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Appleyard questioned line item 56010, office supplies. Discussion took place.

Council Member Appleyard questioned line item 55516, grant-historic document preservation. James Luddecke answered questions.

Council Member Appleyard, seconded by Council Member Wakefield made a motion to close tab 5 page 34, account 10115150, motion carried unanimously.

#### **Data Processing**

Council Member Appleyard, seconded by Council Member Campbell made a motion to open tab 5 page 42, account 10117160, motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Appleyard questioned line item 55330, communications/postage. Discussion took place.

Council Member Appleyard, seconded by Council Member Campbell made a motion to close tab 5 page 42, account 10117160, motion carried unanimously.

#### **Police**

Council Member Wakefield, opened tab 6 page 51, account 10230180.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush, concerning line item 51090, matron's pay, moved to remove \$500, leaving the account balance at \$300. Discussion took place. Motion carried with 8 in favor and 2 opposed, Council Members Winkler and Gingras.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush, concerning line item 53800, other fees, moved to remove \$2,000 (\$1,000 from vehicle detailing and \$1,000 from towing fees), leaving the account balance at \$17,300. Discussion took place. Robert Kleinhans answered questions. Motion carried with 7 in favor and 3 opposed, Council Members Winkler, Schaefer and Gingras.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush, concerning line item 55720, laundry services, uniform cleaning, moved to remove \$3,000, leaving the account balance at

\$19,300. Discussion took place. Motion carried with 7 in favor and 3 opposed, Council Members Winkler, Schaefer and Gingras.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Appleyard, concerning line item 55680, polygraphs, moved to remove \$1,000, leaving the account balance at \$950. Discussion took place. Motion carried with 7 in favor and 3 opposed, Council Members Winkler, Schaefer and Gingras.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush, concerning line item 56184, medical supplies, moved to remove \$1,000, leaving the account balance at \$9,950. No discussion took place. Motion carried with 9 in favor and 1 opposed, Council Member Winkler.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush, concerning line item 56920, firearm supplies, moved to remove \$2,000. Discussion took place. Council Member Winkler, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, made an amendment to change the amount to \$1,145. Amendment failed with 4 in favor, 5 opposed and 1 abstention. Original motion to remove \$2,000 carried with 7 in favor and 3 opposed, Council Members Winkler, Schaefer and Gingras.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Appleyard, concerning line item 57710, cruiser laptops, moved to remove \$4,800, leaving the account balance at \$27,700. Discussion took place. Motion carried with 6 in favor and 4 opposed, Council Members Motola, Winkler, Schaefer and Gingras.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to close tab 6 page 51, account 10230180, for a total amount of \$6,206,462, motion carried unanimously.

#### **Arts Commission**

Council Member Clay, opened tab 9 page 142, account 10562260.

Council Member Clay, seconded by Council Member Appleyard, concerning line item 53420, performers fees, moved to remove \$2,000, leaving the account balance at \$4,000. Discussion took place. Motion carried with 6 in favor and 4 opposed, Council Members Motola, Winkler, Schaefer and Gingras.

Council Member Clay, seconded by Council Member Appleyard, made a motion to close tab 9 page 142, account 10562260, motion carried with 9 in favor and 1 opposed, Council Member Winkler.

#### **MARC, Inc. of Manchester**

Council Member Appleyard, opened tab 8 page 115, account 10456226.

Council Member Appleyard, seconded by Council Member Bush, concerning line item 58700, grants-human services, moved to add \$1,000, increasing the balance to \$5,000. Discussion took place. Motion carried with 8 in favor and 2 opposed, Council Members Clay and Gingras.

Council Member Appleyard, seconded by Council Member Wakefield made a motion to close tab 8 page 115, account 10456226, motion carried unanimously.

#### **Connecticut Legal Services**

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to open tab 8 page 117, account 10456229, motion carried with 8 in favor, 1 opposed and 1 abstention.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush, moved to remove \$3,000, leaving the account balance at \$0. Discussion took place. Motion carried with 6 in favor, 3

opposed, Council Members Winkler, Schaefer and Gingras, and 1 abstention, Council Member Tedford.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Campbell made a motion to close tab 8 page 117, account 10456229, motion carried with 9 in favor and 1 abstention, Council Member Winkler.

Discussion with James Luddecke concerning the State of Connecticut impact and mil rate.

8:10 PM Recess

8:25 PM Reconvened

**Capital Improvement – Town**

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Campbell made a motion to open tab 11 page 155, account 10780290, motion carried with 9 in favor and 1 abstention, Council Member Winkler.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Appleyard, concerning line item 57200, buildings/building improvements, elevator repairs-police, moved to remove \$18,500, leaving the account balance at \$0. Discussion took place. Robert Kleinhans answered questions. Motion carried with 6 in favor, 3 opposed, Council Members Winkler, Schaefer and Gingras and 1 abstention, Council Member Tedford.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Appleyard, concerning line item 57320, improve/reconstruct-sidewalks, DPW-sidewalk repairs-various sidewalks, moved to remove \$50,000. Discussion took place. Robert Kleinhans answered questions. Motion carried with 6 in favor, 3 opposed, Council Members Winkler, Schaefer and Gingras and 1 abstention, Council Member Tedford.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to close tab 11 page 155, account 10780290, for a total amount of \$1,423,397, motion carried unanimously.

8:44 PM RECESS for Mr. Luddecke to finalize the budget numbers.

9:07 PM RECONVENED

**F.) FINALIZE BUDGET**

**APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE TOWN OF VERNON FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017**

THE TOWN COUNCIL DOES HEREBY APPROVE THE TOWN OF VERNON GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF **\$28,796,979**; THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND DEBT SERVICE APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF **\$7,958,715**; AND THE EDUCATION BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF **\$52,155,265**, FOR A TOTAL GENERAL FUND TOTAL OF **\$88,910,959**.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to approve the Town of Vernon general government appropriations in the amount of \$28,796,979; the capital improvements and debt service appropriations in the amount of \$7,958,715; and the education budget in the amount of \$52,155,265, for a total general fund total of \$88,910,959. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF BUDGET REVENUE ESTIMATES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017:**

THE TOWN COUNCIL DOES HEREBY APPROVE THE TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUE IN THE AMOUNT OF **\$88,910,959** TO COINCIDE WITH THE TOTAL RECOMMENDED APPROPRIATIONS OF **\$88,910,959**, AND TO AUTHORIZE THE FINANCE OFFICER TO ADJUST LINE ITEMS IN THE ESTIMATED REVENUE AS MAY BE DEEMED NECESSARY.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Appleyard made a motion to approve the total estimated revenue in the amount of \$88,910,959 to coincide with the total recommended appropriations of \$88,910,959, and to authorize the finance officer to adjust line items in the estimated revenue as may be deemed necessary. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF TOWN OF VERNON BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 FOR PRESENTATION AT THE PUBLIC HEARING/TOWN MEETING:**

THE TOWN COUNCIL DOES HEREBY APPROVE AND PRESENT THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 IN THE AMOUNT OF **\$88,910,959** TO THE ELECTORS AND QUALIFIED TAXPAYERS AT THE PUBLIC HEARING/ANNUAL TOWN MEETING SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2016 AT 8:00 PM IN THE AUDITORIUM OF ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL AT 70 LOVELAND HILL ROAD, VERNON, CONNECTICUT. THE TOWN CLERK IS AUTHORIZED AND DIRECTED TO PUBLISH A SUMMARY OF SAID PROPOSED BUDGET AND ENTERPRISE ACTIVITY ESTIMATES SHOWING ANTICIPATED REVENUES BY MAJOR SOURCES AND PROPOSED APPROPRIATIONS BY FUNCTION AND/OR DEPARTMENTS AND THE AMOUNTS TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION, AT LEAST FIVE DAYS BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEARING.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to approve and present the budget for fiscal year 2016-2017 in the amount of \$88,910,959 to the electors and qualified taxpayers at the public hearing/annual town meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 26, 2016 at 8:00 PM in the auditorium of Rockville High School at 70 Loveland Hill Road, Vernon, Connecticut. The Town Clerk is authorized and directed to publish a summary of said proposed budget and enterprise activity estimates showing anticipated revenues by major sources and proposed appropriations by function and/or departments and the amounts to be raised by taxation, at least five days before the public hearing. Motion carried unanimously.

**Adjourn ( 9:14 PM)**

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Received:

Approved:

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen C. Daigle  
Recording Secretary